

## REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 4, 5 and 23-61 remain in this application. Claims 2, 3 and 6-22 have been canceled. Claims 1, 32, 36, 41, 53 and 57 have been amended. Of the claims under consideration, claims 1, 32, 36, 41, 53 and 57 are independent.

Claims 1 and 23-61 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for obviousness over U.S. Patent 6076166 (Moshfeghi et al.) in view of U.S. Patent 6236978 (Tuzhilin).

The invention is directed to a system and method for dynamically generating a user interface for an application program resident on a computer system in, e.g., a hospital, where multiple users, having different professional functions, or other distinguishing attributes, may log onto the system to generate, process and retrieve information relating, for example, to their work, or their particular professional or functional relationships with patients or one another (p. 15, lines 1-8). According to the present invention, a different user interface may be generated for each individual user based on selected variables such as, e.g., the user's identity, the user's group identifier, the user's desired or identified task, and the like. (p. 11, lines 10-20). Values for these variables are obtained or determined based on, e.g., information provided by the user when he/she logs on, or by geographic or physical characteristics of the computer system invoked by the user (pp 11-12).

Thus, if the user is a doctor, a specific user interface may be generated that includes "doctor" specific functionality, such as a function control for retrieving "patient data", that is not available to users not identifiable as a "doctor" (p. 14, lines 17-25). If the user is a nurse, a different user interface, that includes a different "nurse" functionality, may be generated such as a function control button for performing "patient scheduling", that would be available to users identifiable as a "nurse" (p. 12, lines 9-10).

The user interface is generated by a software application operating principally in the form of compiled code on a central server system (p. 13, lines 18-27). However, a collection of rules governing how various user interfaces should be created are stored

separately in one or more databases accessible to the server (p. 13, lines 18-27). The rules are stored in un-compiled form (p. 13, lines 18-27). In addition, at least some of the rules are dynamic rules, i.e., rules that contain variables for which values are supplied at run-time (p. 11, lines 20-27, p. 12, lines 5-27). Thus, at run-time, the application accesses the database(s) and selects one or more rules based on one or more criteria, such as the user's identity, the user's desired task, etc. (p. 11, lines 10-20).

If the user is a doctor, for example, a set of rules pertaining to "doctors" may be selected (p. 11, lines 10-20). The selected rules are executed to retrieve data from a database (p. 11, lines 10-20). The data may be, for example, data needed to display functionality, such as a navigation button having a link to a "Cancer Task Force" page on the screen (p. 12, lines 5-8). The user interface is created using the data (p. 11, lines 3-9).

Advantageously, the use of dynamic rules (rather than pre-compiled, static rules) allows the application program to be flexible (p. 13, lines 18-20). A list of dynamic rules may be stored in un-compiled form in a database, and the system administrator can simply add more rules as desired (p. 13, lines 18-27). Thus, for example, if the hospital hires a new team of cardiac surgeons, the administrator can simply add a few new rules for "cardiac surgeons" (p. 13, lines 18-27). The server source code does not need to be rewritten and re-compiled each time new rules are added; in contrast, this would be necessary if static rules were used (p. 13, lines 18-27).

Thus, and in accord with the presently amended claims, the invention is directed to a method for dynamically generating a user interface for an application program, by selecting and retrieving at least one dynamic rule from a plurality of rules stored in one or more databases, wherein the rule comprises at least one variable parameter representing information pertaining to the function of the user interface. A value of the variable parameter is determined and the dynamic rule is executed to select and retrieve data from the one or more databases based on the value, whereby the user interface is generated, based on the selected and retrieved data.

U.S. Patent 6076166 (Moshfeghi et al.) is not understood to disclose or suggest the foregoing. The Moshfeghi reference discloses a system for generating web pages based on certain characteristics of the user GOB, access privileges, and the like (col. 1, lines 26-41). Specifically, web pages are generated using server scripts which first check user information, and then create rules for generating web pages and rules for retrieving database information such as patient records (col. 2, lines 34-42). Finally, the rules are executed to generate a web page and retrieve information from a database (col. 2, lines 34-42). In sum, the Moshfeghi reference discloses nothing more than a system and method for generating web pages that display different information to different users.

The Moshfeghi reference does not contain any disclosure or suggestion regarding how different user interfaces may be constructed. Nothing in the Moshfeghi reference discusses dynamically generating a user interface, particularly a user interface that exhibits different functionality for different users. Generating a web page is not generating a user interface.

Moreover, the Moshfeghi reference does not disclose or suggest selecting and retrieving a dynamic rule from a database, where the rule controls functionality of an interface. Neither does Moshfegi disclose a rule comprising a variable parameter. In fact, Moshfegi suggests, if anything, that the "rules" disclosed therein are static rules created by scripts. According to Moshfegi server scripts check user access privileges, user preferences, usage logs, and environment profiles. The outcome is rules for retrieving computer based patient records (CPR) information and rules for generation of web pages. (col. 2, lines 43-50).

Thus, as disclosed by Moshfegi, information such as user access privileges, user preferences, and the like, may be used as input values for the scripts but not as input values for the *rules*. The scripts may create the rules based on such information, but the rules themselves, once created, are not dynamic (and thus do not contain variable parameters).

Tuzhilin does nothing to remedy the deficiencies of Moshfegi as a reference. Tuzhilin discusses algorithmic computations useful in generating a user profile. Tuzhilin's use of the term "rule" is not dynamic, in the context of the present invention. Rather, as set forth at col. 3, lines 58-66, "A dynamic profile consists of rules (or patterns) characterizing a user's behavior ... The rules are derived from a set of transactions pertaining to a particular user." The "variable parameters" of the Tuzhilin reference refer solely to the "fuzzy logic" nature of weighting coefficients assigned to captured transactions or actions associated with a particular user. Tuzhilin's "rules" are not rules associated with creation of a user interface. Neither do Tuzhilin's fuzzy logic coefficients represent a variable parameter representing information pertaining to definition of user interface functionality.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 23-61 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for obviousness over U.S. Patent 6076166 (Moshfeghi et al.) in view of U.S. Patent 6236978 (Tuzhilin).

Claims 4, 5, 34, 35, 42, 43, 55 and 56 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for obviousness over U.S. Patent 6076166 (Moshfeghi et al.) in view of U.S. Patent 6236978 (Tuzhilin) and further in view of U.S. Patent 5410693 (Yu et al.). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

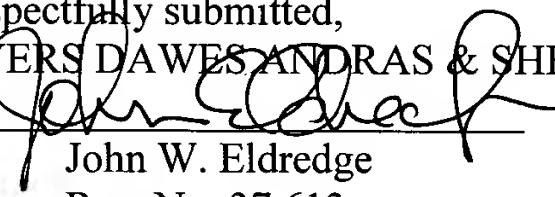
The remarks set forth above with respect to claims 1 and 23-61 apply equally here. The Examiner seems to rely upon Yu as disclosing a structured query language as a set of command and syntactic rules for accessing data. However, Yu discusses only a simple DBMS with improved security through use of a query package of procedures, each comprising a pre-compiled SQL statement. Yu does not disclose or suggest anything having to do with generating user interfaces by executing dynamic rules determined by the value of a variable parameter.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and

withdrawal of the rejection of claims 5, 34, 35, 42, 43, 55 and 56 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for obviousness over U.S. Patent 6076166 (Moshfeghi et al.) in view of U.S. Patent 6236978 (Tuzhilin) and further in view of U.S. Patent 5410693 (Yu et al.)

Applicant believes the present application is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests a timely Notice of Allowance and early passage to issue.

Please address all correspondence to MYERS DAWES ANDRAS & SHERMAN, LLP, 19900 MacArthur Blvd., Suite 1150, Irvine, CA 92612.

Respectfully submitted,  
MYERS DAWES ANDRAS & SHERMAN  
By   
John W. Eldredge  
Reg. No. 37,613  
Tel.: (949) 223-9600